

## **Background:**

Sometime in the 1950's it was put in regulations that this service will have many classes of license earned by demonstrating code proficiency and passing written exams. Things changed with time and the regulations changed to support the new conditions. Originally there were code tests at 5, 13 and 20 WPM. They graduate up in speed and made nice delimiters between the license classes. Now, through changes in regulations the code test is 5 WPM for the General and Extra Class, and the Novice and Advanced Class are being phased out. Now a person may earn the Technician Class with no code test, and the General and Extra with a 5 WPM code test.

## **Discussion:**

There are now 5 possible classes in the service that are the Novice, Technician, General, Advanced and Extra. These are left over from the time when the Morse Code requirement was a successful delimiter between classes. In the 1960's it required a 5 WPM code to get the Novice and Technician licenses, 13 WPM to get the General and Advanced licenses, and 20 WPM to get an Extra license. It was the Code requirement that kept many people out of Amateur Radio. And the Code requirement was what made Incentive Licensing work. Since the Code test requirement is being removed so has the major Incentive License delimiter.

When the CW test is removed a person can earn all three levels of service licence by taking written exams. The Incentive Licensing is no longer effective.

## **Proposal:**

This new plan will modify the Technician Class to have limited HF privileges and a change in the examination that puts more HF questions in the exam. Now the progression of licenses start with the Technician and then the General and the Extra Class. The General is a 35 and the Extra is a 50 question test. It is our plan to combine these and have

just one test for all the privilege's now held by the Extra Class. It could be a 85 question test, but some duplications can be removed and it might then be a 65 question test.

The name of the new license will be the new General Class which has exactly the Extra Class privileges. With the formation of this new class, those who now hold the General, Advanced, and Extra Class licenses will become the new General Class. At this point people entering the service will have two written exams, one for Technition and one for General Class.

Transfer of existing General, Advanced and Extra Class holders to the new General will be done over time when they apply for license renewal. When completed there will remain the Novice, Technician and new General Class licenses.

The Technician Class should gain the privledge of operation on some High Frequency bands. Limited coverage of 75 meters from 3.9 to 4.0 MHz, 40 meters 7.2 to 7.3 MHz, and all of 15 meters.